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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

50X1

TO : The Files ([redacted] DATE: 1 November 1954

STAT

FROM : [redacted]

50X1

SUBJECT: Conference with [redacted] of IBM concerning electrostatic printing techniques under consideration by IBM.

1. On 26 October 1954 the writer attended the subject conference in the office of [redacted] Chief Business Machine Services, Management Staff, DD/A. The purpose of the conference was to determine the progress of IBM developments in the field of electrostatic printing techniques which may be of interest to the Agency. Those present:

STAT

STAT

[redacted]

Management
Chief Mach Division, OCD
Chief OC-S
OC-S
SPD

IBM

STAT

2. [redacted] explained the processes of electrostatic printing in which IBM is now doing development work. The breakdown follows:

A. Card to Tape:

Two models have been built and are in "product testing" at the present time. These models will not be available for demonstration for at least two months. The equipment is capable of reading addresses from standard IBM cards and reproducing the addresses on a tape at a rate of 500 addresses per minute. The image is reduced at a 5 to 4 ratio in transferring from card to tape. The equipment will not be available for at least 30 months.

B. Card to Card:

An engineering model is under construction. Availability for demonstration indefinite. Reproduces IBM cards at the rate of 200 per minute. Reproduces a maximum of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches of useful area on the card. Available in 30 months.

C. Cathode Ray Tube Data Reader:

Experimental stage only. Consists of various cathode ray tube reading techniques adaptable to the output of computers, etc. Experiments included work with the "charactron". Nothing available for demonstration at this time.

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3. The following tentative requirements were discussed briefly with [redacted] 50X1

A. For OCD by [redacted] STAT

1) Card to Card equipment (to replace the Davidson offset process).

22) Card to Tape equipment (to replace the Faxcard facsimile equip).

3) Film to Tape equipment (to replace photographic equipment in OCD).

B. For OC by [redacted] STAT

1) Special Card to Tape equipment for reducing and reproducing 5½ x 10" copy.

4. [redacted] explained the general attitude of IBM with respect to special projects involving the production of a limited number of equipments. While IBM likes to rent equipment, they will do special development work, but the costs will be high. IBM will not produce and market equipment until it has been pretty well shaken down. No cost figures could be made available on the equipments. 50X1

5. [redacted] stated that any approaches for development work would have to be made through the local Washington office of IBM. 50X1

[redacted] STAT

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